

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for actuating an electrical switching device having at least one moving contact piece, the at least one moving contact piece being driven via a rotating shaft (40),  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein  
an electric motor having a rotating drive shaft (48), which can be coupled to the rotating shaft (40) for the switching device by means of a gear mechanism, is provided for the purpose of driving the rotating shaft (40).
2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein, in the case of multi-pole, in particular three-pole, switching devices, an electric motor is provided for the purpose of driving all of the switch poles.
3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein, in the case of multi-pole, in particular three-pole, switching devices, a separate electric motor is provided for the purpose of driving each switch pole.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in ~~one of the preceding~~ claims claim 1, characterized  
~~in that wherein~~ the central axis of the drive shaft (18) runs parallel to the central axis of the rotating shaft (10).
5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in ~~one of the preceding~~ claims claim 1, characterized  
~~in that wherein~~ the electric motor is ~~in the form of~~ a servomotor.
6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in ~~one of the preceding~~ claims claim 1, characterized  
~~in that wherein~~ the gear mechanism is ~~in the form of~~ a lever mechanism.
7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 6, ~~characterized in~~  
~~that wherein~~ the lever mechanism is dimensioned such that a rotation of the drive shaft (18) of the electric motor through at most 180° brings about a switching operation of the switching device.
8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in ~~either of claims 6 and 7~~ claim 6, characterized  
~~in that wherein~~ an intermediate piece, preferably configured as a circular disk (26), is fixed to the drive shaft (18) of the electric motor, and ~~that wherein an~~  
end of the a connecting rod (14) which faces the drive shaft (18) can be

connected to said intermediate piece at at least two distances from the central axis of the drive shaft (18).

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, characterized ~~in that~~ wherein the gear mechanism is in the form of a toothed belt drive.
10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the toothed belt drive has a transmission ratio of 1:1 to 1:6, preferably 1:3.5.
11. (Currently Amended) A switching device having at least one apparatus for actuating purposes as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1.
12. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the central axis of the drive shaft runs parallel to the central axis of the rotating shaft.
13. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein the electric motor is a servomotor.
14. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the gear mechanism is a lever mechanism.

15. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein the lever mechanism is dimensioned such that a rotation of the drive shaft of the electric motor through at most  $180^{\circ}$  brings about a switching operation of the switching device.
16. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein an intermediate piece configured as a circular disk, is fixed to the drive shaft of the electric motor, and wherein an end of a connecting rod which faces the drive shaft can be connected to said intermediate piece at at least two distances from the central axis of the drive shaft.
17. (New) ) The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the gear mechanism is in the form of a toothed belt drive.
18. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the toothed belt drive has a transmission ratio of 1:1 to 1:6, preferably 1:3.5.
19. (New) A switching device having at least one apparatus for actuating purposes as claimed in claim 18.
20. (New) A switching device having at least one apparatus for actuating purposes as claimed in claim 16.